

Dear Veterans, Military Families and Supporters,

Please find a number of resources below to benefit veterans and military families. They are not endorsed by my office, just a compilation of programs and services that come across my desk. The annual Howard County Veteran Resource Fair flier is attached and we ask that you share it with your network. Please feel free to share and vet according to your needs. If you have anything you would like me to share, please forward it. Thank you.

Lisa Terry

Howard County Veteran Resource Fair –April 4, 5-8pm

[Participant List](#)

[Flier](#)

MD Dept of Veteran Affairs Veteran Benefits Specialist in Howard County

If you have question about your VA benefits, MDVA VBS , Keida Massey Murray, can assist you.

Her office is located in the Howard County Multiservice Center in Laurel.

Contact her at 410-313-0229 or kmurray@howardcountymd.gov

Employment Opportunities

- [Md Dept of VA Jobs](#)
- [Federal Employment Resource Links](#)
- [Veterans Curation Program](#) - The Veterans Curation Program (VCP) is currently seeking applicants for archaeological laboratory technician positions for the upcoming session, scheduled to begin in early May 2017. The VCP is a five-month, paid training program that provides veterans with tangible work skills and experience through the rehabilitation and preservation of archaeological collections owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We are seeking eligible veterans for both part-time and full-time job opportunities in our Alexandria, VA, Augusta, GA, and St. Louis, MO laboratories. Please visit our [website](#) for application information. We will be accepting applications until the positions are filled and conducting interviews the first two weeks of April. 20 new IT careers #USA locations some with relocations fees !! Clearances Req. check them out today!!

- **Global Professional Solutions has just posted 20 new IT careers**

Embedded Systems Engineer - Annapolis Junction, MD/Ft Meade

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/embedded-systems-engineer-ft-meade/>

Software Engineer - Lexington Park, MD

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/software-engineer-md/>

Senior Software Engineer - Dahlgren, VA

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/senior-software-engineer-va/>

Senior Enterprise Mobility Engineer - On the client site in the Pentagon, Crystal City, Mark Center areas, VA

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/senior-enterprise-mobility-engineer-va/>

Software Developer, Senior - Charleston, SC

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/senior-software-developer-sc/>

Software Developer, Mid. - Charleston, SC

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/mid-level-software-developer-sc/>

Linux System Administrator - Washington, DC, FBI

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/linux-system-administrator-dc/>

Oracle DBA - Washington, DC

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/oracle-dba-washington-dc/>

Application Developer - Annapolis Junction, MD/Ft Meade

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/application-developer-md/>

Reverse Engineer - Annapolis Junction, MD/Ft Meade

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/reverse-engineer-md/>

Cyber Reverse Engineering - Dayton, OH

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/cyber-reverse-engineering-oh/>

Mid-level Software Engineer - Dayton, OH

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/mid-level-software-engineer-oh/>

Mid-level Software Engineer – Multiple Positions available - Rome, NY

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/mid-level-software-engineer-ny/>

System Requirements Analyst - Arlington, VA

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/system-requirements-analyst-va/>

Mid-level Software Developer - McLean, VA

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/mid-level-software-developer-va/>

Junior Developer - Oklahoma, City and Mclean, VA

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/junior-developer-ok-va/>

Systems Administrator - Oklahoma, City and Mclean, VA

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/systems-administrator-ok-va/>

Senior Database Administrator - Fairfield, CA

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/senior-database-administrator-ca/>

Senior Software Engineer - Monterey, CA

<https://www.military-civilian.com/pages/job/senior-software-engineer-ca/>

Please feel free to call with any questions 310-455-2002

Lucy Jensen | [Military – Civilian](#)

<http://www.military-civilian.com>

(310) 455-2002 | lucy@military-civilian.com

- **Amazon Web Services Associate Training Survey**

Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corporation and Fort Meade Transition Assistance Program Communities are exploring establishing Amazon Web Services Associate training program in July 2017.

Amazon, named a top military employer by G.I. Jobs magazine—for both Veterans and Military Spouses will provide Active Military personnel, Veterans, and their Spouses with a training solution that leads to industry certifications and immediate job placement. This training will give participants essential skill-set necessary to be operationally responsible for the organization's cloud support team.

During a comprehensive 16-week training, students will learn the foundational knowledge necessary for:

- Installation of a Linux operating system and ability to work at the command line;
- Perform maintenance task
- Add and maintain users
- Basic networking and troubleshooting skills
- Configuration of a DNS- Setup and support of web servers
- OS administration
- Network protocols and standards
- Apply knowledge of SQL server basics.

The overall goal of this course is to train students in the skills needed to be successful Cloud Support Associates to diagnose user problems and issues and provide solutions

What's in it for participants?

- Receive IT-related military occupations relevant industry training to obtain positions requiring networking and Linux skills
- Through vendor vouchers students can take industry certification exams after successful completion of training.

Amazon Web Services has an immediate and on-going need for Cloud Support Associate positions in Seattle, Dallas, and Herndon, VA. However, the skills gained are transferrable to other companies and industries.

Please complete the following survey about your interest in the

training. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/953T9XY>. The results of the survey will be used to determine the feasibility of establishing the program.

Events and Programs

- [Women in Small Business Seminar](#) - **March 22**, 10am-3pm Aberdeen Proving Grounds
- [Baltimore County Library Veteran Art Workshops](#) – **March 23-May 18**, Thursdays at 7pm
- **Howard County's 5th annual Caregiver Conference – Saturday, March 25, 9am-3:30pm at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center in Glenwood, 2400 Route 97, Cooksville, Md.**
If you are a caregiver, you won't want to miss Howard County's 5th annual caregiver conference, *"The Caregiving Journey: A Universal Voyage."* Presented by the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence. Admission is just \$10, which includes continental breakfast; lunch; seminars and handouts; access to over 20 industry-relevant exhibitors; goody bag and multiple chances to

win great door prizes! Registration is required by March 17; to pre-register online, visit www.caregiverjourney.eventbrite.com.

The Caregiver Conference is for anyone who provides care to others - family and professional caregivers alike (there's an option to earn 3.5 CEUs). A keynote presentation, *"It's Not Always Alzheimer's: Understanding the Many Causes of Dementia"* by Nicole Absar, MD, Medical Director, Memory Clinic at Integrace Copper Ridge will kick off the day, followed by breakout sessions to address common caregiver issues and concerns:

• Beginning Legal Preparations • Navigating Resources and Services • Modifying and Adapting Environments • Managing Medications • Protecting Vulnerable Adults • ALZ Effective Communication Strategies • Parkinson's • Behavioral Health • LGBT Community • Nutrition Supporting Strength/Independence • Finalizing Legal Matters • Coping with Changing Behaviors • Palliative Care and Hospice • Mindful Transitions through Grief • Living in the Moment Through Art

A continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be served, and on-site respite care for your loved one will be provided by Office on Aging and Independence staff. For more information or to register for respite, contact Earnestine Thomas at 410-313-5969 (voice/relay) or ethomas@howardcountymd.gov

- Flag Retirement Ceremony – **March 25, 12pm** at VFW Post #7472 4225 VFW Lane Ellicott City, MD 21043. Sponsored by: The Joint Military Council of HoCo; American Legion Adams, Hanna, Moore Memorial Post #156 and Columbia #300; Marine Corps League, SSgt Karl G. Taylor, Sr. Detachment 1084; VFW Post #7472
- [Veteran Benefits Workshop](#) – **March 25**, 11am-2pm MD National Guard Armory
- NAMI Parent Support Group - Wednesday, **March 29th**-7:30pm-9pm, First Presbyterian Church 9325 Presbyterian Circle Columbia, MD 21045
- [IT Job Fair](#) – March 29
- [Free Legal and benefits assistance](#) - The University of Baltimore School of Law will be providing free legal and benefits assistance for veterans and their immediate families **March 30, 2017**.
- [Third Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration](#)
Thursday, March 30, 2017, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Martin's Crosswinds
7400 Greenway Center Drive
Greenbelt, MD 20770
[Flier](#)

- **Veterans Symposium**
Presented by Family Services, Inc.
Thursday, March 30, 2017
9:00 am Ribbon Cutting

9:30 am Registration & Networking
10:00 am to 12:00 Noon Symposium

640 E. Diamond Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
[Flier](#)

- [50+ Job Expo](#) – **April 3**, 10am-3pm Bethesda
- [Multicultural Job Fair](#) – **April 6**, 10am-3pm, Washington DC
- **Maryland Commemoration of the US Entry into WWI - Thurs, April 6, 12-1pm**
Join fellow Veterans at the Centennial Ceremony at the War Memorial Building in downtown Baltimore. This ceremony is open to the public. The War Memorial is located at 101 N. Gay Street. There are adjacent parking garages available at a reduced rate for this ceremony. Guest speakers include: Governor Larry Hogan, State of Maryland; Mayor Catherine E. Pugh, City of Baltimore; Mr. Michel Charbonnier, French Consul; Major General Bruce T. Crawford, U.S. Army Commander Communication-Electronics Command (CECOM); Colonel Tom Rickard, U.S. Army, Commander of Fort George G. Meade; and Patricia McCoy, Maryland Department Commander of the American Legion.
If you plan to attend, please send an email to Ed Hall at ehall@telecomxchange.com, American Legion Post #156 Commander in Howard County
- **Veterans Treatment Courts – Mentors Needed**
Recent years have witnessed the creation of Veterans Treatment Courts in local jurisdictions throughout the nation. Veterans Court dockets are focused specifically on the unique needs of U.S. Veterans who are involved in the justice system. It is a court-supervised, comprehensive, and voluntary treatment-based program for former military service members charged with misdemeanors and certain felonies in the District Court. The docket emphasizes rehabilitation over incarceration.

The first Veterans Court in Maryland was created in October 2015 in the District Court in Baltimore City, presided over by Judge Halee F. Weinstein, who is also an Army veteran. Its first anniversary report reveals that the program in Baltimore City has been very successful.

In January of this year, a Veteran's Court was created in the Frederick County Circuit Court, presided over by Associate Judge Scott L. Rolle, who is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Howard County does not currently have a Veterans Treatment Court, but the feasibility of creating one is being explored. The Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families supports these exploratory efforts.

Members of the public who are interested in attending the next Veteran's Court docket on March 29, 0900, at the Frederick County Circuit Court may do so. Veterans who are interested in volunteering to be a mentor in the Veteran's Court in Frederick County can receive more information by contacting craig@purplemoonproject.org

YOU ARE INVITED

Monday April 3, 2017

A SPECIAL PRE-RELEASE SCREENING OF
THE DINNER

THE UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL

701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20004

7 :00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM
FOR A PRE-EVENT RECEPTION

Join Oren Moverman, director, and other special guests
for a conversation after the screening.

RSVP for yourself (and a guest): lnowlin@giveanhour.org

*Invitation is non-transferable

This is the opening event of the inaugural
Global Summit on Mental Health Culture Change
brought to you by  **change**direction.
May 1- 3
Los Angeles, CA



- [Fort Meade Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program Schedule 2017](#)

News

- [MDVA News and Announcements, March 17](#)
- [VFW Action Corps Weekly](#)
- **VA Offers Free Services for MST:** The Department of Veterans Affairs provides free physical and mental health care services for survivors of sexual trauma regardless of service-connected disability. VA is providing outreach to men and women who may be experiencing difficulty coping to let them know that VA and Vet Centers are options for help. According to Kayla Williams, director for VA's Center for Women Veterans, "VA provides all care for mental and physical health conditions related to MST free of charge, and veterans do not need to have reported their experiences of MST at the time or have other documentation that they occurred in order to receive free MST-related health care..." [Read more here.](#)
- **VA Mental Health Care for Vets with OTH Discharges:** During a hearing before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on Tuesday, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin announced that VA will no longer turn away veterans seeking urgent mental health care simply because they received other-than-honorable discharges. VA plans to implement the new rule later this year. [Read more on the initiative.](#)
- **VA's Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune**
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. are effective as of today.

"Establishing these presumptions is a demonstration of our commitment to care for those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin. "The Camp Lejeune presumptions will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned."

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

This presumption complements the health care already provided for 15 illnesses or conditions as part of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. The Camp Lejeune Act requires VA to provide health care to Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune, and to reimburse family members, or pay providers, for medical expenses for those who resided there for not fewer than 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987.

[Camp+Lejeune+Fact+Sheet++3.14.2017.docx](#)

[Camp+Lejeune+News+Release+3.13.2017.docx](#)

- [Baltimore VA Medical Center Important Parking Info](#)
- [MesotheliomaVeterans.org](#) - United States Military veterans make up over 30% of all patients with malignant mesothelioma, caused by exposure to asbestos. Learn more about your benefits options with our VA-accredited claims agents, all free of charge.
- [Fort Meade Financial Focus](#) – Financial Readiness resources
- [First Responder VA Homelessness Brochure](#)
- The General Assembly in Annapolis has had hearings on two bills that would make **Uniformed Service Retirement Income 100% exempt from Maryland State Income Tax** over the next several years; 50% in 2018, 75% in 2019, and 100% in 2020. Senate Bill 321 and House Bill 375, which were cross-filed, are a good compromise for Maryland's current fiscal reality. There would be no change this year; the Governor would build the exemptions in the State's budget each of the next three years.

Maryland has the highest concentration of cybersecurity job positions in the Nation yet a very low supply of qualified, available cybersecurity workforce professionals.

Maryland businesses require critical Uniformed Service retiree skills, especially in cybersecurity and Information Technology fields, but talent is going to other states.

[Please add your name to our petition ? Lend Your Voice - Enhance Maryland's Fiscal Posture.](#)

Hearings were held on the legislation in February, but nothing has happened with it since then. I have tried to speak with Speaker Busch about the issue, but he will not meet with me. As of Wednesday, March 15, 2017, there are only 26 days left in the session. We must tell Annapolis that we want SB321 to come out of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and HB375 to come out of the House Ways and Means Committee with a Favorable Report, so they can be considered on their respective floors of the Senate and House.

Increasing numbers of Uniformed Service retirees are leaving Maryland when they retire because 26 other states are 100% tax free.

100% tax-free uniformed service retirement income is the incentive needed for military retirees to remain in or move to Maryland, bringing economic, business and social benefits to the State.

[Please add your name to our petition ? Lend Your Voice - Enhance Maryland's Fiscal Posture.](#)

Thank you for standing with the 60,000 Maryland Uniformed Services Retirees and Surviving Spouses who receive Uniformed Service Retirement Income.

Democrats and Republicans must stand together.

The support and vote of every Maryland Senator and Delegate is needed!

[Please add your name to our petition ? Lend Your Voice - Enhance Maryland's Fiscal Posture.](#)

- From TheHill.com: Congress' defense bill calling for an expanded Army left the service to work out a plan to boost...

<http://thehill.com/policy/defense/324593-army-tackling-task-of-significantly-boosting-its-ranks>

1. Army tackling task of significantly boosting its ranks (The Hill, Mar. 20, Rebecca Kheel)

[Appeared in Top Stories] When Congress passed its annual defense policy bill calling for the Army to boost its ranks by 16,000 more soldiers than what was planned, the service was left to work out a way to get there.

Now, the Army is in the midst of a three-pronged approach: upping recruitment, retention of soldiers and retention of officers.

"Army developed a strategy, and the key message there is that the Army's hiring," Maj. Gen. Jason Evans, director of military personnel management, said in an interview with The Hill. "One of the challenges of this is time and really trying to turn an institution like this on a dime in a short period of time."

How the Army is dealing with the increase in its ranks this year could provide a window into how it would handle the 60,000-soldier boost that President Trump has floated.

But Evans said the service has not had discussions yet about future increases, remaining focused on achieving its goal for this year that was set by Congress.

"We have not gotten to that conversation with senior Army leaders and there has not be any conversation about that," he said. "Right now we're really focused on FY17. That's our immediate challenge right now."

Prior to December, the Army had planned on dropping from 475,000 to 460,000 soldiers. But the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) signed into law that month called for an Army of 476,000, tasking the Army with finding and keeping 16,000 more soldiers than it had intended.

"I don't think it will be an unreachable goal," Evans said. "It'll be a challenge, but I have confidence that we have a strategy in place to achieve to this goal."

The first approach is to boost recruitment numbers. The Army increased its recruitment goal by 6,000 soldiers, for a total goal of 68,500 this year.

To reach that mark, the Army revamped its marketing campaign and increased incentives for 50 skills considered critical, Evans said.

The Army has also offered incentive pay to recruiters, drill sergeants and advanced individual training platoon sergeants to stay on an extra year to be able to accommodate training for the new recruits. And recruiting has focused on bringing back soldiers who were honorably discharged, which Evans said could help ease the financial burden of training, since returning soldiers only need a two-week regrading course. Critics of plans to expand the force have said that doing so without the guarantee of additional money and resources in the future could result in a "hollow force."

Evans shot down the criticism, saying the Army has enough resources to get the job done. "Right now we have the available resources to set the training base to accommodate those that we're bringing in and training," he said. "This is really about increasing readiness and to the critics, we're going to be able to fill some shortages and holes in our basic combat brigades, brigade combat teams."

So far, the Army has reached more than 60 percent of its recruitment goal, though Evans cautioned that the service is coming up on the "bathtub months" of spring when recruitment rates are lower. The Army is working not just on bringing in new talent, but also keeping those already enlisted. It has increased its retention goal by 9,000, for a total goal of 17,500.

The Army is offering larger re-enlistment bonuses for about 95 specialties and for those who re-enlist for longer than 12 months, Evans said.

Retention has been challenging, he said, since a quarter of the retention and recruitment year had already passed by the time the NDAA was signed into law. That meant a number of soldiers the Army could have tried to entice to stay had already left. "We didn't have the benefit of those soldiers who were in the retention population during the first quarter because they've already left the Army," Evans said. "So somewhat of a challenge with time, but we're confident that we can get there."

The last part of the Army's approach is aimed at retaining about 1,000 officers. The effort there includes canceling early retirement and separation boards, which were meant to decide who to separate as part of the previous planned drawdown; having conversations with those considering retirement; holding a selective continuation board to see if captains who were not promoted to majors are qualified and want to stay in the Army; and allowing reserve officers to go on active duty.

"Our guiding principles are that we will do this responsibly," Evans said of the entire effort, "and with a focus on quality and of course the quality soldier we want are those who are fit, resilient and will be soldiers of character."

- Success Story for Fort Meade Soldier enrolled in the U.S. Chamber Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellows Program. <http://www.capitalgazette.com/neighborhoods/ph-ac-cc-fort-meade-0322-20170320-story.html>
 - [Fort Meade Soundoff Newspaper](#)
 - [Fort Meade Facebook](#)
 - Budget Blueprint for 2018 from Office of President – see attachment
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Lisa B. Terry, Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families
Administrator, Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families
Howard County Government
Department of Community Resources and Services
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 303
Columbia, MD 21046
Office: 410-313-6400
Direct : 410-313-0821
<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans>